

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 ( Currently Amended ): A method for examining a caries risk ~~with a~~  
~~characteristics of; identifying a genotype of DRB1\* in a class II type of a HLA gene group~~  
comprising

identifying a subject's genotype for a DRB1\* gene, which is an HLA class II type  
gene; and

comparing the identified genotype with caries risk, wherein the genotype correlating  
to caries risk has been determined beforehand and which genotype is derived from an  
antibody titer of a secretory immunoglobulin A in human saliva against an antigen as  
correlative to caries risk, which antigen is a synthetic protein consisting of an amino acid  
sequence SEQ ID NO:1, wherein if the identified genotype from the subject is a genotype  
correlating to a high caries risk then the subject is at risk for developing caries.

Claim 2 ( Cancelled).

Claim 3 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein the DRB1\* gene is at least one HLA  
class II gene selected from the group consisting of DRB1 0101, DRB1 -4-5, DRB1 0803,  
DRB1 1302 DRB1 1502, DRB1 0410, DRB10403, DRB1 0406, DRB1 0802, DRB1 0901,  
DRB1 1202, DRB1 1401, DRB1 1405, DRB1 1501, DRB1 1602, and DRB1 1101.